

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful examination given to the present application. The application has been reviewed in light of the Office action, and it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form.

The drawings of Figs. 1, 2(a) and 2(b) have been amended. In Fig. 1, the previously omitted element 41 has been added and the element 47 has been corrected to reference number 42. In Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), the previously omitted element 7 has been added.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 10-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 10-11 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shida et al. (US Patent No. 5,783,915). In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been canceled by amendment herein.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shida et al. in view of Inaba et al (US Patent No. 6,412,166). In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 8 has been canceled by amendment herein.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shida et al. in view of Hawkswell (US Ref. No. 32,538). In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 9 has been canceled by amendment herein.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone

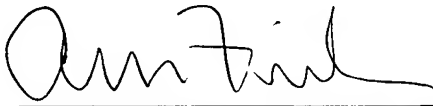
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interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same
to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34397.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 2 (b)

